

The Lord's Prayer: The Second Petition

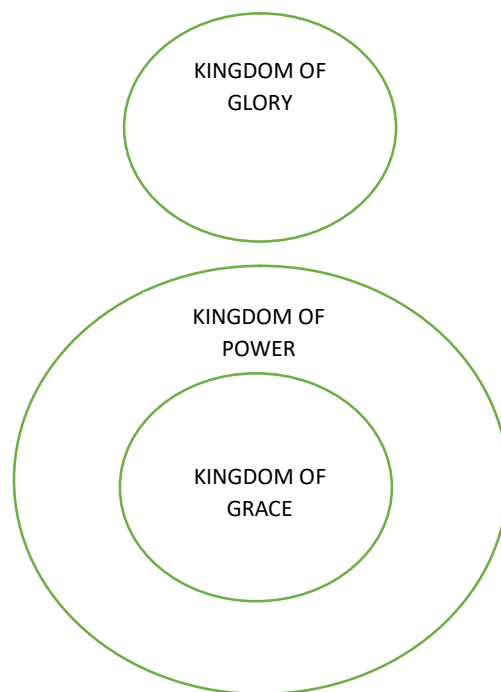
Thy kingdom come.

What does this mean?

The kingdom of God certainly comes by itself without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may come to us also.

How does God's kingdom come?

God's kingdom comes when our Heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His holy Word and lead godly lives here in time and there in eternity.



Today, I want to focus on the question, “What is the kingdom of God?” You will see three circles on your page that represent the three kingdoms of God: the kingdom of power, the kingdom of grace, and the kingdom of glory. The kingdom of power is God’s rule over all creation. We confess this in the First Article of the Creed, “I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.” By virtue of creation, God is King over all the earth. The first use of the Law (the curb) applies to this kingdom.

You’ll notice that the kingdom of power includes the kingdom of grace, which is the church. The kingdom of grace, the church, is not exclusive of the kingdom of power, the world, but is included in it and must therefore interact with it. This highlights our responsibility for creation and our responsibility for the rest of fallen humanity. One of the things we pray for in the Second Petition is for others outside the kingdom of grace to be brought into it by the Gospel. Our responsibility is to pray for them and share the Gospel with them.

The kingdom of glory is separate from the other two kingdoms. This includes all believers and the heavenly host. Those of us in the kingdom of grace will end up spending eternity with God in His kingdom of glory. That's the goal of all Christians.